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ABSTRACT

Two studies examined racial differences in regard to childhood sexual experiences and the proportion of wife abuse reported by black and white women. The first study examined the childhood sexual experiences of women (N=501) and the relationship of these experiences to their adult functioning. A majority of women (55%) reported having some type of sexual experience by the age of 14; 24 percent had such experiences with relatives, but when the dictionary definition of incest as sexual intercourse between two persons too closely related to marry legally was used, less than one percent had had incestuous experiences. Neither the occurrence of sexual experiences as children nor the type of sexual partner women may have had was statistically significant for adult functioning. The results indicated that 67% of the white sample had had sexual experiences as children compared with 36% of the black sample. The second study was a comparative analysis of women (N=312) who were living in an intact marital relationship. The results indicated that 35.5% of the women had been victims of wife abuse in the past year. Thirty-one percent of the black women as compared to 32.2% of the white women reported that their partner had pushed, grabbed, or shoved them during the past year. (ABL)

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Violence Against Women: Racial Differences in Childhood Sexual Experiences and Wife Abuse

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: RACIAL DIFFERENCES IN CHILDHOOD SEXUAL EXPERIENCES AND WIFE ABUSE

There is a paucity of empirical research comparing the nature and extent of childhood sexual experiences and wife abuse between racial groups. Most studies have supported the presumption that childhood sexual experiences are more prevalent in black families than white families (De Frances, 1969; Reiss, 1967; Zelnik & Kantner, 1977). In regard to wife abuse, the research that does exist is conflictual. Some studies have supported the presumption that black women are victims of more physical abuse than white women, while other studies have reported no significant difference in the amount of abuse reported by racial groups (Straus, Gelles, & Steinmetz, 1980; Cazenave & Straus, 1979; Staples, 1976). Most of these conclusions have been based upon studies that have been contaminated with methodological problems (e.g. using clinical samples, using data from official police or agency reports and lack of controls for social class or class indicators such as income, education, and occupation) which have made it difficult, if not impossible to discern clear racial differences.[1]

The data reported in this paper make an important

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[1]For a more detailed discussion of the methodological flaws inherent in past research, see Lettie L. Lockhart, Methodological Issues of Comparative Racial Analyses: A Case of Wife Abuse (in press).

contribution toward answering the question, "Are there significant differences between races in regard to childhood sexual experiences and the proportion of wife abuse reported by black and white women?" Two studies will be reported separately which deal with these two areas of childhood sexual experiences and wife abuse. Implications of both these studies for social work education will then be presented.

Childhood Sexual Experiences: Racial Differences in Their Nature and Consequences for Adult Functioning

The first study presented here concerns the childhood sexual experiences of 501 women and the relationship of these experiences to their adult functioning. It is a retrospective study of predominantly middle-class women in Georgia and Florida. The racial groups studies were white (63%) and black (35%) with 1.5% other racial groups (.5% did not report race).

Method

The sampling method used was the model of deliberate sampling to increase heterogeneity (Cook & Campbell, 1979). The sample included students in institutions of higher learning and in vocational technical classes, public school teachers, church groups, community groups, and professional groups. No samples from clinical or offender populations were used. The questionnaire was administered in groups and requested: 1) demographic information, 2) data on present adult functioning (obtained by using five standardized scales which measured self-esteem, depression, marital satisfaction, sexual satisfaction, and family relationships (Hudson, 1982); and 3) information concerning specific childhood sexual experiences which

ranged from kissing and hugging in a sexual way to intercourse.[2]

Findings

General findings of the study across racial groups are presented first. Specific findings of the two primary racial groups are then reported.

Overall findings. A majority of women (55%) reported having some type of sexual experience by the age of 14; 24% had such experiences with relatives; but when the dictionary definition of incest as sexual intercourse between persons too closely related to marry legally is used, only 0.6% had incestuous experiences. It seems that rather than the incidence rate of incest increasing, it is the definition of incest that has expanded. The current trend is toward decreasing childhood sexual activity over the past 50 years. This finding explodes a popular myth that sexual activity is increasing. Women growing up on farms had the highest percentages of overall experiences and also the highest percentages of experiences with relatives. This finding reinforces the isolation theory that is often used in relation to sexual abuse.

The most prevalent types of sexual behaviors were kissing and hugging in a sexual way and exhibition which are considered normal

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[2]For more specific information on methodology which would permit replicability, see Allie C. Kilpatrick, "Some Correlates of Women's Childhood Sexual Experiences: A Retrospective Study," in The Journal of Sex Research (in press).

exploratory behaviors. Most women found these experiences to be pleasant, although 16% of the sample reported them as harmful. Over half the women talked with someone about the experiences and one-third of these found others to be helpful. Only two women found social workers to be helpful. Most women would have liked someone with whom to talk, and some motherly advice.

Neither the occurrence of sexual experiences as children nor the type of sexual partner women may have had (relative, nonrelative, older) were statistically significant for adult functioning. It must be remembered here that the primary behaviors were kissing and hugging and exhibition, and that the primary partners were nonrelatives near the same age. This finding does not mean that children who were abused by adults were not harmed. The interactions of negative sexual experiences (such as the use of force and abusive behavior) with the type of partner (such as parent or other relative) were significantly associated with adult functioning in all five measures. This is considered to be one of the most important findings in the study.[3]

Background variables explained more variance than the sexual experience variables. Notably missing from the significant background variables was the variable of mothers working when the women were children. Contrary to traditional views, whether or

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[3]For a more detailed description of the analyses and findings, see Footnote 1.

not the mother worked was inconsequential for adult functioning. Also, trauma may have been experienced at the time of the childhood sexual experience. However, by the time the child reached adulthood she was generally functioning in the normal range. In future studies the identification of variables that aided the return to normalcy of children with harmful experiences would be most helpful in planning effective interventions.

Although four of the five analyses had from one to five significant sets of variables, the amounts of variance explained were minimal (background variables explained up to 21% and interaction variables up to 7%). With complicated interactions of sexual experience variables as were found in this study, more studies are indicated which use sophisticated methods of analyses in order that more variance is accounted for as we seek to define the ingredients that lead to effective adult functioning and eliminate those which do not.

Findings by race. The experiences of racial groups were analyzed under the two headings of white and black. The eight nonwhite women in the sample were included in the black sample for purposes of analysis.

This study found that 67% of the white sample had sexual experiences as children as compared to 36% of the black sample. These proportions are shown in Table 1. Significant differences in sexual behaviors by race were found in this study. The

behavior of "partner showing your genitals" was experienced by 58% of the white sample but by only 19% of the black sample. Similar differences were found for the behaviors of "you masturbating partner" (white = 9%, black = 0), "oral sex on partner" (white = 2%, black = 0), and "intercourse" (white = 4%, black = 0). Using the chi-square statistic, the difference in ethnicity was significant at the .01 level for all forms of these behaviors.

Insert Table 1 About Here

The behaviors of "kiss and hug" was significant at the .05 level (white = 53%, black = 24%). There were no significant differences in remaining behaviors of "you show genitals,""partner felt breasts," "partner maturbated you," and "oral sex by partner." Care must be taken in interpreting some of these results due to the limited frequencies. The finding that many more white women participate in masturbation and oral sex behaviors than black women is supported by other studies (Bell, 1968; Pierce & Pierce, 1984).

Racial groups were also studied in regard to partners, and the findings are shown in Table 2. In regard to sexual experiences with relatives, 45% of the white sample reported such experiences as compared with 18% of the black sample. Another male relative was reported as a partner by 13% of the white women

as compared to 11% of the black women. However, a brother was reported by 12% of the women in the white sample while only 0.5% in the black sample reported a sexual experience with a brother. A female relative was reported as a partner by 9% of the white sample but by only 3% of the black sample. A sister was reported as a partner by 3% of both samples. Parents and stepparents were reported as a partner by 8% of the white sample but by only 1% of the black sample. More specifically, father was reported as a partner by 5% of the white sample, and by 0.5% of the black sample. Stepfather was reported by 2% of the white sample, and by none of the black sample. Mother was reported as a sexual partner

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Insert Table 2 About Here

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by 1% of the white sample, and by 0.5% of the black sample. Stepmother was reported by only 0.3% of the white sample, and by none of the black sample.

For sexual experiences with nonrelatives, 70% of the white sample reported such experiences, as compared to 25% of the black sample.

An unrelated male was reported as a partner by 45% of the white sample and by 21% of the black sample. An unrelated female was reported as a partner by 20% of the white sample and by 2% of the black sample. In the white sample, 4% reported experiences

with a stranger, and in the black sample, 2% reported such an experience. Three women in the white sample(1%) were married by age 14 and reported husband as partner. None of the black sample reported being married by this age. Using the chi-square statistic, the difference in ethnicity was significant at the .01 level for father, brother, female relative, unrelated male and unrelated female, and at the .05 level for stepfather, stepmother, and husband.

While the proportion of the total sample having one or more sexual experiences was 55%, it is important to note that for the white sample alone, the proportion was 67%. This proportion is very close to Finkelhor's (1979) finding of 66% (although he included propositions as sexual behavior). In Finkelhor's sample almost no blacks were represented, so the figure of 66-67% seems consistent for the white population. Further research on the childhood sexual experiences of black women is needed to corroborate the findings of this study.

Racial groups were also studied in relation to experiences with older partners. As shown in Table 3, 17% of the white sample reported having partners who were at least five years older than they were, while only 5% of the black sample reported having older partners. Using the chi-square statistic, the difference in race and older partners was not significant.

Hierarchical multiple regression analyses were conducted for

each of the five measures of adult functioning. Background variables, including race, were entered before the sexual experience variables for each analysis. In these analyses, race was a significant factor for both the measures of depression ($p < .03$) and marital satisfaction ($p < .01$). Simple r for depression was -.150, and for marital satisfaction it was -.223. This means that race was negatively correlated with these measures for the black sample regardless of the presence or absence of any childhood sexual experiences. In other words, being a black female is a significant factor for adult depression and marital satisfaction.

In retrospective studies such as this, the threats to validity of recall data are recognized. Hopefully, methodologies will be developed which will allow the gathering of sensitive material directly from young children and from nonclinical populations without detrimental results to the children. In the meantime, answers are needed now in order to be helpful to social agencies.

"Wife Abuse Among Black and White Couples:
Is There a Significant Difference?"

The second study reported here is a comparative analysis of 312 women who were living in an intact marital relationship in a Florida metropolitan city. The purposes of the study were to compare the extent and nature of wife abuse among black and white couples and to determine the effects of race, class, and violence in the family of origin on current levels of wife abuse. The sample consisted of an approximately equal number of black and white women across different class positions: 49.5% were black (35.5% upper class, 36.8% middle class, and 27.7% lower class) and 48.7% were white (30.9% upper class, 38.8% middle class, and 30.3% lower class). The remaining 1.6% of the sample were Orientals, who were excluded from these analyses.

Method

The sampling technique used was the model of deliberate sampling to increase heterogeneity (Cook & Campbell, 1979). Heterogeneity in the background variables (especially on race and class) was desired so that if these variables do in fact have any significant impact on current levels of wife abuse, there will be enough variability to reflect their explanatory power. Thus, the sample was not designed to be representative of the populations sampled; rather, it was designed to secure an approximately equal

number of black and white women from different class positions. The sample included women in institutions of higher learning and in vocational classes; public school teachers; church groups; community service, recreational, social, and professional groups.

The questionnaire was administered in groups and requested five different types of information, but only three of those will be discussed in this article. The first type of information requested concerned demographic data 9e.g. race, age, monthly family income, educational backgrounds, and present occupational positions for both marital partners). Based upon the educational and occupational data obtained for each marital partner, the Hollingshead Two Factor Index of Social Class position was used to calculate a family class position (Hollingshead & Redlich, 1958).[4]

The second type of information requested was information regarding violence in the family of origin which was used as an independent variable along with race and class. Violence in the family of origin (VFO) was defined as spousal violence between the respondents' parents as well as between their partners' parents during the time they lived in their parents' homes.

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[4]For more specific information on the methodology (as well as how social class was calculated) which would permit replication, see Lettie L. Lockhart, "The Nature and Extent of Spouse Abuse Among Black and White Couples Across Different Social Class Positions" (Doctoral Dissertation, Florida State University, 1984). Dissertation Abstracts International. (University Microfilms No. 84-15,717).

The third type of information requested was data regarding the nature and extent of wife abuse, the dependent variable. Four measures of wife abuse were used in this investigation, but only the data obtained from Straus's Conflict Tactics Scales, specifically the Husband to Wife Violence Index (CTS-HWV) will be reported in this article (Straus, Gelles, & Steinmetz, 1980; Straus, 1979).[5] The CTS-HWV index was designed to measure the magnitude of wife abuse incurred during the one year prior to the investigation. The type of violent acts comprising the CTS-HWV index consists of kicking, biting, or hitting with a fist; throwing something at a wife; pushing, grabbing, or shoving a wife; beatings; threatening with a knife or gun; and being cut or shot.

Findings

During the twelve months preceding this research, 35.5% of the women in the total sample reported they were victims of one of more of the physical attacks which fall under the operational definition of wife abuse. The median number of incidents of abuse reported by the abused womern was five, which indicated that wife abuse was generally not an isolated incident as can be seen in

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[5]For a more detailed discussion of the internal flaws of Straus's Conflict Tactics Scales, see R. E. Dobash and R. Dobash, "Social Science and Social Action: The Case of Wife Beatings," Journal of Family Issues, 2(1981), pp. 439-470.

Table 1. The former finding was consistent with the findings reported by Straus and his colleagues (1980) that 27% of the women in their investigation reported they were victims of wife abuse during the year prior to their study.

Insert Table 3 About Here

This study further found that 35.5% of the black and white women reported they were victims of physical abuse from their partners, with a median of four abusive episodes during the year prior to this study. The findings of this investigation are in sharp contrast to those of Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz (1980) who reported that wife abuse was highest among blacks—nearly 400 percent more common among blacks than for white women.

This discrepancy could be related to the differences in the sample used in these investigations. Straus, et al.'s study had 2,143 couples where 147 were black and the remaining were nonblack. Also, Straus and his colleagues failed to control for social class differences as well as other background differences between the two racial groups; consequently, it is of concern whether or not the two racial groups were comparable. Thirty-one percent of the black women as compared to 32.2% of the white women reported that their partner had pushed, grabbed, or shoved them during the year prior to this investigation. The median number of

times the black women who were abused reported they were pushed, grabbed, or shoved was 2.3 as compared to a median of 2.8 for white women who reported this series of acts. Slapping was reported by 16.8% of the black women and 18.4% of the white women. The median number of times black and white women reported they were slapped by their partners was two times during the year prior to this research. None of the black women reported they had been cut or shot by their marital partner during the year preceding this investigation. On the other hand, 2.6% of the white women reported they had been cut or shot,where these acts occurred a median of 1.5 times during the year prior to this investigation. There was no significant racial difference in the proportion of women reporting wife abuse (as well as specific violent acts) or the median number of times the women reported the occurrence of wife abuse.

The findings in this study are inconsistent with Cazenave and Straus's (1979) finbdings that black males were generally more likely to have slapped their wives and have engaged in the use of more severe violent acts than their white counterparts. Cazenave and Straus (1979) reported that over 40% of the black sample were located in one of the lowest income groups ($6000, 11,999), which possibly suggests that the groups also were not comparable across class backgrounds. Further comparative research on the nature and extent of wife abuse among black and white couples across

different social class levels is needed to corroborate the findings of this study.

Relatinship Between Wife Abuse and Background Variables by Race. Pearson product-moment correlations between the wife abuse measure (CTS-HWV) and the continuous background variables for the two racial groups were conducted. Although several correlations were statistically significant for the black and white women in the study, the relationships could only be regarded as trivial (Squared Multiple Correlations or SMC < .07).

The Effects of Race, Class, and Violence in the Family of Origin on Wife Abuse. In order to make these analyses more rigorous/meticulous, the effects of the background cariables and three principle explanatory variables (race, social class, and violence in the family of origin (VFO) were examined through analysis of covariance utilizing a hierarchical multiple regression model. The purpose of these analyses was to explore the potential effect of these variables on the original paired comparisons of race and levels of wife abuse and to examine the size of their effect over and above the effects produced by the other variables in the model.

The background variables which had a significant effect on wife abuse scores were used as covariates (number of children, partner's educational attainment, and respondent's mother's occupation) and tested as a block effect. In this procedure, some

conclusions could be drawn about the effects of race, class, and violence, in the family of origin (VFO) under the conditions that differences in the background variables have been held constant. Thus, any effects associated with current levels of wife abuse would not be spuriously attributed to differences in background variables. The covariates were entered in the model first, then race, class, violence in the family of origin, the interactional effects of the principle explanatory variables and the test of homogeneity of slope was entered in this order. The variables were entered in the order given for the purpose of determining how much of the variance in the wife abuse (CTS-HWV) scores was accounted for by each variable over and above that accounted for by the variables entered previously. Two test criteria were used to determine significant differences: statistical significance was tested at the .006 level and the effect size was tested with the decision rule of R^2 or $R^2 < .07$).[6]

The results of the analysis of covariance are given in Table

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[6]Since there were nine hypotheses, with an overall alpha rate of .05, the Bonferroni technique was used to establish the test criterion of .006. For a discussion of the Bonferroni technique, see J. Neter and W. Wasserman, Applied Linear Statistical Models: Regression, Analysis of Variance and Experimental Designs (Illinois: Richard D. Irwin, 1974). For a more detailed discussion of the effect size decision rule, see D. Gold, "Statistical Test and Substantive Significance," The American Sociologist (1969), pp. 42-46; L. Kish, "Some Statistical Problems in Research Design," The American Sociologist, (1959), pp. 334-339.

2. The block effect of the covariates had a significant but trivial effect on the wife abuse measure (CTS-HWV) since it only explained 4.5% of the variance. The principle explanatory variables of race and class did not produce a significant change in the amount of explained variance in the wife abuse measure after removing the effects of the variables previously entered in the analysis. The effect of violence in the family or origin (partner's father abused by partner's mother) on wife abuse scores after removing the effects of the class, race, and covariates was significant but only explained an additional 3.5% of the variance in the wife abuse scores. Even though the amount of variance in the wife abuse scores by violence in the family of origin was small, women who reported violence in the family of origin had a

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Insert Table 4 About Here

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higher wife abuse score than those who reported no VFO or who were unaware of its occurrence. This finding is consistent with findings of previous investigations (Gelles, 1974; Parker & Schumacher, 1977). There were no significant two-way interactions but there was a significant three-way interactional effect between race, class, and violence in the family of origin which only accounted for an additional 4.7% of the variance in the wife abuse scores (CTS-HWV). Notwithstanding, further analysis

indicated that white lower class and black middle class women who reported VFO were more likely to have been victims of wife abuse than other groups in the sample as reflected by the data in Table 3. This finding partially supports Petersen's (1980) finding that lower class women who

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Insert Table 5 About Here

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reported VFO were more likely to have been victims of wife abuse. Since the findings of this analysis did not support Petersen's finding for the black sample in this study, further research is warranted in order to ascertain possible explanations for this deviation among the black sample.

Implications for Social Work Education

1. Schools of Social Work and social agencies must assist students and agency staff in becoming aware of and sensitive to the issues of sexual and physical abuse of children and women, and to be comfortable in dealing with them without allowing their own emotions, biases (racism, sexism, classism, and ageism), and moral codes to interfere with effective treatment.

2. Too few social workers and other clinicians are prepared to effectively work with the multi-faceted nature of wife and child abuse. They have not recognized the complex economic, emotional and societal factors which serve to promote and

perpetuate abuse of women and children. Thus, it is vitally important that schools of social work develop curriculum materials that reflect a more sophisticated understanding of the dynamics of this abuse, as well as recognizing and rejecting the racial stereotypes.

3. Clinicians point out that many times societal reactions to abuse of women and children are more harmful than the experience itself. Social workers must ensure that the agency program does not compound an already stressful situation. Effects on women and children must be considered in every ameliorative action that is contemplated, and efforts must be made to provide the least detrimental alternative.

4. We need to promote the development of inter-disciplinary training, education, and comprehensive services to link programs in health, mental health, welfare, criminal justice, law enforcement, and social service systems for effective treatment and prevention of abuse of women and children among all racial groups.

5. Perhaps one of the most disturbing findings of this research is that abuse is a learned behavior and is carried over from one generation to the next. Unless the cycle of violence is broken, abuse of women as well as children will not be eliminated or reduced. Thus, social workers should design strategies and programs to work with the perpetrators, the victims, and the

children who are part of an abusive family environment.

6. Because of the disparity in the data on the extensiveness of this abuse, clinicians should work toward creating and improving reporting mechanisms within public and private agencies serving victims of this abuse as well as among community lay people and leaders who often come in contact with abuse of women and children.

7. Findings of these studies provide a firm basis for drawing some conclusions about the type services social welfare agencies need to provide. First, we must be more visible, accessible, and acceptable to the public. Next, public information and education on services provided need to reach those who need our services. Preventive services and education and skill development in coupling and parenting skills are needed. Then there must be effective intervention to prevent the negative interactions which interfere with effective adult functioning for all racial groups.

8. Resiliency of people has always been a cornerstone and basic tenet of social work. Children and families can grow and change, and social functioning <u>can</u> be enhanced. Social workers must believe this tenet and integrate it into their practice. Although trauma may have occurred at the time of the abuse, with effective treatment harmful effects can be ameliorated.

9. Social welfare has the responsibility to document change

and effectiveness in the practice of social work with those who have had abusive experiences. This documentation would help to provide needed information regarding the most effective intervention procedures that would ameliorate the long-term effects of the abusive experiences for all groups regardless of age or racial background.

10. Finally, more studies are needed on long-range effects of childhood sexual experiences and wife abuse. For example, if these studies were replicated in other geographic areas, if samples were comparable on race and socio-economic class, and if we also gathered data on the experiences of males, then we could certainly have more sufficient data to guide us as social work educators/researchers take the lead on women's issues.

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Table 1

Number and Proportion of Women by Ethnicity Who Reported Sexual Behavior

Behavior	Ethnicity of Respondent: White N	White %	Black[a] N	Black %	Total Women	% of Total Sample
Had Experiences	211	67	65	36	276++[b]	55
Kiss & Hug	168	53	44	24	212+	43
Show You Genitals	184	58	34	19	218++	44
You Show Genitals	137	44	15	8	152	31
Felt Breasts	70	22	8	4	78	16
You Masturbated	28	9	-	-	28++	6
You are Masturbated	32	10	2	0	34	7
Oral Sex by You	7	2	-	-	7++	1
Oral Sex on You	2	0	-	-	2	0.4
Intercourse	12	4	-	-	12++	2
No Experiences	105	33	117	64	222++[c]	45
Total Sample	316	100	182	100	498	100

[a]Eight non-white respondents were included in the black sample for purposes of analysis.

[b]Two women with experience did not report ethnicity.

[c]An additional woman with no experience did not report ethnicity.

+$p \leq .05$. Chi-square statistic was used. For expected frequencies less than 5, Yates Correction((Siegel, 1956, p. 64) was used.

++$p < .01$.

Table 2

Number and Proportion of Women by Ethnicity Who Reported Sexual Experiences with Relative and Non-Relative

Partner	Ethnicity of Respondent: White N	White %	Black[a] N	Black %	Total Women	% of Total Women
Had Experiences	211	67	65	36	276++[b]	55
With Relative	142	45	33	18	175++	35
Father	15	5	1	0.5	16++	3
Stepfather	5	2	-	-	5+	1
Mother	3	1	1	0.5	4	1
Sister	10	3	5	3	15	3
Brother	39	12	1	0.5	40++	8
Male Relative	40	13	20	11	60	12
Female Relative	29	9	5	3	34++	7
With Non-Relative	220	70	45	25	265++	53
Unrelated Male	143	45	38	21	181++	36
Unrelated Female	63	20	4	2	67++	13
Husband	3	1	-	-	3+	1
Stranger	11	4	3	2	14	3
No Experiences	105	33	117	64	222++[c]	45
Total Sample	316	100	182	100	498	100

[a]Eight non-white respondents were included in the black sample for purposes of analysis.

[b]Two women with experiences did not report ethnicity.

[c]An additional woman with no experiences did not report ethnicity.

+ $p \leq .05$. Chi-square statistic was used. For expected frequencies less than 5, Yates Correction (Siegel, 1956, p. 64) was used.

++ $p < .01$.

Table 3

Number and Proportion of Women by Ethnicity Who Reported Older Partner

	Ethnicity of Respondent[a]					
	White		Black			
Older Partner	N	%	N	%	Total Women	% of Total Sample
Had Experiences	211	67	65	36	276[b]	55
Older Partner (at least 5 years older)	53	17	9	5	62	12
Other Partner (less than 5 years older)	158	50	56	31	214	43
No Experiences	105	33	117	64	222[c]	45
Total Women	316	100	182	100	498	100

[a]Eight non-white respondents were included in the black sample for purposes of analysis.

[b]Two women with experiences did not report ethnicity.

[c]An additional woman with no experiences did not report ethnicity. $\chi^2 = 3.62$; $df = 1$; $p > .05$

Table 4

Number and Percent of Respondents by Race Reporting Husband to Wife Violence (HWV) with Median Number of Incidents

	Respondents						Incidents		
	Race						Race		
	Black		White						
Husband to Wife Violence Index (HWV)	N	%	N	%	Total Women	Percent of Total Sample	Black Md	White Md	Total Sample Md
Had Experiences	55	35.48	54	35.53	109	35.5	3.6	4.3	4.8
K. Threw something at spouse	26	16.8	23	15.1	49	16.0	2.7	3.4	3.4
L. Pushed, grabbed or shoved spouse	48	31.0	49	32.2	97	31.6	2.3	2.8	2.6
M. Slapped spouse	26	16.8	28	18.4	54	17.6	2.1	2.4	2.2
N. Kicked, bit or hit with fist	15	9.7	20	23.2	35	11.4	2.1	2.7	2.5
O. Hit or tried to hit with something	10	6.5	19	12.5	29	9.5	2.5	3.3	3.2
P. Beat up spouse	11	7.1	11	7.2	22	7.2	2.3	2.3	2.3
Q. Threatened with a knife or gun	4	2.6	8	5.3	12	3.2	2.0	2.5	2.5
R. Used a knife or gun	--	--	4	2.6	4	1.3	--	1.5	1.5
No Experiences	100	64.52	98	64.47	198	64.5	--	--	--
Total Sample	155	100.0	152	100.0	307	100.0	.27	.28	.28

**$P \leq .05$ Chi-square statistic associated with the median test (Siegel, 1956) was used.

Table 5

Analysis of Variance Summary Table of Husband to Wife Violence (HWV) as a Function of Background Variables, Race, Social Class and Violence in Family of Origin (VFO)

Source	df	SS	MS	F-Ratio	R^2	$^{\Delta}R^2$	$P \leq$
Background Variables (Covariates) Number of children Partners' education Respondents mother's occupation	3	571.91	190.64	5.40	.045	.045	.006
Race	1	168.22	168.22	4.77	.059	.014	.08
Social Class	2	54.92	27.46	.78	.063	.004	.50
Violence in the Family of Origin Partners' father abused (PFA)	2	441.04	220.52	6.25	.098	.035	.006
Interactions							
Race by partner's father abused	2	127.25	63.63	1.80	.108	.101	.211
Race by social class	2	173.44	86.72	2.46	.122	.014	.089
Social class by partner's father abused	4	199.31	49.83	1.41	.137	.015	.107
Race by social class by partner's father abused	4	585.62	146.41	4.15	.184	.047	.006
Homogeneity of Slopes	15	750.67	50.04	1.42	.243	.059	.247
Residual	271	9567.53	35.30				
Total	306	12639.91					

Table 6

Estimated CTS-HWV Mean Scores for the Three-way Interaction

Violence in the Family of Origin	Social Class	Race		Estimated Mean Difference
		Black	White	
	Upper			
Yes		1.53 (4)	5.14 (5)	-3.61
No		1.68 (17)	3.68 (16)	-2.00
Don't Know		2.13 (34)	4.78 (26)	-2.65
	Middle			
Yes		9.54 (2)	3.88 (3)	+5.66
No		1.56 (14)	2.08 (27)	-.52
Don't Know		3.41 (41)	1.99 (27)	+1.42
	Lower			
Yes		2.07 (4)	9.45 (3)	-7.38
No		2.96 (7)	1.58 (16)	+1.38
Don't Know		1.26 (32)	4.66 (23)	-3.40

+ Black higher mean; - White higher mean.
* t-Statistics used to test differences ($P \leq .006$).